AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 and 6-14 and amend claim 2 as shown in the following Listing of Claims.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (currently amended) ~~The multi-user virtual tape system according to claim 1 further~~ A multi-user virtual tape system comprising:

at least one server adapted to execute a plurality of tape application programs;

a random access storage device;

a controller providing communications between said at least one server and said random access storage device, said controller configured so that said application programs can concurrently access said random access storage device as a sequential access tape storage device.

a virtual tape volume configured on said random access storage device for tape formatted data;

a write-enabled one of said tape application programs designated to perform a record of tape formatted data to said virtual tape volume; and

a write-protected one of said tape application programs designated to perform a playback of tape formatted data from said virtual tape volume,

said controller allowing said playback to operate during said record.

3. (original) The multi-user virtual tape system according to claim 2 further comprising a virtual tape drive defined by said controller so as to emulate a physical tape drive to said tape application programs.

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4. (original) The multi-user virtual tape system according to claim 3 further comprising:

a first one of said tape application programs having performed a write operation after said virtual tape volume is initially mounted in said virtual tape drive,

said controller designating said first one of said tape application programs as said write-enabled one of said tape application programs.

5. (original) A multi-user virtual tape system according to claim 4 wherein at least one said tape application programs is able to perform one of a load operation and an unload operation on said virtual tape volume independent of others of said tape application programs.

Claims 6-14 (canceled)